

Superior Court of Clark County



SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF  
WASHINGTON  
FOR CLARK COUNTY

GENERAL ORDER 21-03

**REVISED COVID-19 MITIGATION IN CLARK  
COUNTY COURTHOUSE, JUVENILE  
COURTHOUSE, AND  
FAMILY LAW ANNEX**

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Adopted: July 6, 2021

Effective: July 19, 2021

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2021 Washington state reopened under the Washington Ready Plan and all industry sectors previously covered by Governor Inslee's Roadmap to Recovery or the Safe Start Plan returned to usual capacity and operations.

WHEREAS, the industry specific guidance for courts previously issued by the Washington Department of Health expired on June 30, 2021.

WHEREAS, this Court previously issued Emergency General Orders 20-06, 20-07, 20-08, 20-09, 20-10, 20-11, and 20-12 to respond to the state of emergency and mitigate the effect of COVID-19.

Effective Monday, July 19, 2021 General Order 20-13 Clark County Superior Court COVID-19 Mitigation Order is rescinded and the actions set forth herein will take effect and will remain in effect until further order of the Court.

1. Any person who is sick or in quarantine shall not enter the Clark County Courthouse, Juvenile Courthouse, or the Family Law Annex.

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2. Staff and visitors are expected to practice good hygiene including washing hands frequently and/or using hand sanitizer when hand washing is not practicable.
3. All unvaccinated individuals entering the Clark County Courthouse, Juvenile Courthouse or the Family Law Annex shall be required to wear a mask at all times unless otherwise exempted under paragraph 5 below. Any unvaccinated individual who is not wearing a mask, and who refuses to wear an offered mask, shall be refused entry by Courthouse Security staff. Courthouse Security staff may also remove any unvaccinated individual ordered from the building for improper removal of a mask.
4. During a court proceeding, the presiding judicial officer may direct an unvaccinated individual who is an active participant in the proceedings to remove a mask, based upon a finding that removal is necessary to facilitate clear communication on the record, or to promote due process. For public safety reasons, removal shall be limited in scope and duration. "Active participant" may include the judge, court staff, an interpreter, a party, attorney for a party and a witness.
5. The following individuals do not need to wear a mask:
  - a) Any fully vaccinated individual;
  - b) Any child under the age of 12;
  - c) Any individual who has a physical disability that prevents easily wearing or removing a face covering;
  - d) Any individual who is deaf and uses facial and mouth movements as part of communication or an individual who is communicating with a person who is deaf and uses facial and mouth movements as part of communication;
  - e) Any individual who has been advised by a medical professional that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to that individual for health-related reasons; and
  - f) Any individual who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

Dated this 15th day of July, 2021



Derek J. Vanderwood, Presiding Judge